

11: Haguenuer--42 [2]
116, 181, 186, 577, 609

T-3

(no date) 1929

Formosan Aborigines
Atayal

The Tayal race is a very proud one, much more so than you would suspect. It is industrious, but only in so far as the task concerns the whole community. The men are calm, but if they get angry nothing can stop them. An unbounded curiosity and feeling of suspicion with regard to all strangers are two more traits of the Tayal mentality. He has full confidence in his comrades, but as soon as he is with people of another tribe, he becomes suspicious and reserved. The Tayal have some fine virtues too; they have a highly developed sense of honor, are not greedy, do not steal and rarely tell lies.

22: Wiedfeldt--7 [3] F-5
116, 173, 186, 609

(1913) 1914

Formosan Aborigines
Atayal

According to their traditions, they are the noblest and oldest kind of people on the island. Their ancestors took refuge on the mountains after a severe typhoon, and from there they slowly returned to the plains. Later, other savages came to the island; then came the Chinese, the whites, and finally the Japanese. They consider all of these people as illegal intruders, but they especially hate the Chinese, with whom they have been longest in contact. The boundaries of their territory consist of mountains thickly wooded with virgin forest. The interior is said to be similar, as far as foreign observers have penetrated. To be sure, that is not very far. No foreigner has as yet set foot on Mt. Sylvia.

"In conclusion, I think it is evident that the race of people inhabiting this village is distinct from the Chinese. Among the women, particularly, there was scarcely one who had a Chinese feature, and their habits and modes of life also differ considerably. The feet were in no instance bandaged, as is universally the custom among the neighbouring Chinese. With regard to the men, it was not always so easy to discriminate, although in many, or rather most, instances, the Kibalan man was bigger and more stalwart, and with a cast of features superior to that of the Chinese. Some of them may have been half-castes, but I am of opinion that the majority of the inhabitants were of pure aboriginal descent, though how they became separated from the mountain savages, and the process and reason of their domestication, I have no means of knowing. Their present isolation in their own special village in a great measure accounts for the apparent purity of their blood. They were in all respects a more intelligent and more engaging people than the Chinese of Formosa, though these latter affect superiority. Thus, when I inquired of a man in the Chinese village of Sano, who I imagined had a dash of Kibalan in his face, if he belonged to that race, he replied, 'No, I am a man' (that is, a Chinese), 'not a foreigner.' "

39: Wiedfeldt--25
116, 157, 186, 609

F-3

(1913) 1917

Formosan Aborigines
Atayal

I have not been able to determine the basic reasons for their reserve. Perhaps it is rooted in excessive pride of race, not to say, haughtiness of race, as some of the Japanese maintain... It is also partly due to a certain shyness. In the presence of people who belong to other races, the Atayals drop their voices to a whisper, and display a prudent reserve in spite of the curiosity of the others. The sources of this attitude, however, continue to be a mystery; the only thing that is clear is their attitude of reserve.